

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7434

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS BEIRUT 14595

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, EG, XF, LE

SUBJECT: REPORTED EGYPTIAN COMMENT ON ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL

REF: STATE 275611

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PERTINENT PARTS OF TAHSIN BASHIR INTERVIEW WITH BEIRUT WEEKLY AD-DIYAR OF NOV. 17, AS REQUESTED IN REFERENCE:

2. TAHSIN BASHIR IN ANSWER TO SERIES OF QUESTIONS ON PALESTINIAN CAUSE: QUOTE A GREAT NUMBER OF AMERICANS AND WESTERNERS HAVE NOW BEGUN TO FEEL, FOR MANY COMPLICATED REASONS, THE EMERGENCE OF THE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE BEING AT THE FORE, THAT THERE IS ANOTHER ASPECT TO THE PROBLEM -- THAT OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. IN THE PAST, THE ONLY SOLUTION PROPOSED WAS THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL. THAT IS NONSENSE. WE ARE NOW PROPOSING THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE COEXISTING IN PEACE WITH A JEWISH STATE. THIS PROPOSAL IS ENTERING PEOPLE'S CONSCIENCES. FOR THIS REASON, IT
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MUST CONTINUE TO BE STUDIED AT ALL LEVELS. UNQUOTE.

3. QUOTE: Q- WERE FUTURE STEPS IN THE AREA
DISCUSSED DURING SADAT'S VISIT TO THE U.S.?

A- OF COURSE. WE HAVE STARTED TO DISCUSS STEPS.
THESE ARE IN TWO DIRECTIONS: THE FIRST IS TO PROCEED
TOWARD DISENGAGEMENT ON THE SYRIAN FRONT AS A PRELUDE
TO A GENERAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN GENEVA. THE
SECOND, WHICH IS MORE DIFFICULT AND MORE IMPORTANT, IS
TO PREPARE THE ATMOSPHERE FOR PRESENTING THE PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE'S CAUSE AS A PLAN THAT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED.

4. Q- IS THIS RELATED TO THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE CALLED FOR BY SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER?

A- THE FACT THAT DR. KISSINGER CALLED FOR THIS
MEETING PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF THE SINAI AGREEMENT AND
PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE AGREEMENT IN THE GOLAN
IS A REACTION TO EGYPTIAN PRESSURE FOR
PROGRESS ON ALL FRONTS AND A MEANS OF OVERCOMING
THE SERIOUS OBSTACLES STANDING IN THE WAY OF A QUICK
AND DIRECT CONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. WE
SHOULD NOTE THAT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THIS IS
HAPPENING. ALTHOUGH KISSINGER DID NOT DEFINE THE
PARTIES, HE DID NOT EXCLUDE THE PALESTINIANS.

5. Q- MORE SPECIFICALLY, THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN
DESCRIBED AS A STEP TOWARD A JUST AND PERMANENT PEACE
UNDER SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 PROVIDING FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 242, WHICH IS STILL
REJECTED BY THE PALESTINIANS.

A- THE FACT IS THAT THE POLICY OF PRESIDENT SADAT IN
SOLVING THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, AND SPECIFICALLY
SOLVING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, CONSISTS OF BREAKING OUT
OF VICIOUS CIRCLES.

6. Q- WHICH MEANS?

A- WHICH MEANS THAT OVER THE PAST 24 YEARS THE ISRAELI
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SIDE SUCCEEDED IN MAKING IT APPEAR THAT THERE COULD ONLY
BE ONE OF TWO SOLUTIONS TO THE PALESTINE PROBLEM:

THE FIRST WAS THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL, AND THE SECOND
WAS THE ARABIZATION OF THE PALESTINIANS. THIS
PRESENTATION OF THE CAUSE PLACES IT IN A VICIOUS
CIRCLE THAT HAS NO SOLUTION. NEITHER SETTLEMENT IS
PRACTICAL. HOWEVER, WHAT CAN BE DONE NOW IS TO CREATE
UPON PALESTINIAN TERRITORY A PALESTINIAN STATE THAT
WOULD LIVE PEACEFULLY WITH A JEWISH STATE, PROVIDED

THE TWO SIDES ABIDED BY CERTAIN RULES SUCH AS
NON-AGGRESSION. THIS IS A NEW PRESENTATION OF THE
CASE DIFFERING FROM THE PREVIOUS ISRAELI PRESENTATION,
WHICH CONTINUES TO BE SOLELY IN ISRAEL'S FAVOR. UNQUOTE.

7. QUOTE: Q- MUST THE PALESTINIANS TAKE CERTAIN
STEPS?

A- AT THIS STAGE, WE ARE PREPARING TO PUT THE
PALESTINIAN CAUSE INTO THE LIMELIGHT OF THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION. WE WILL GIVE THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE THE RIGHT
OF SELF-DETERMINATION; THEN, THE PALESTINIANS WILL
HAVE TO DECIDE FREELY WHICH QUARTER THEY WISH TO
FEDERATE WITH -- EGYPT, SYRIA, OR JORDAN.

8. Q- BEFORE OR AFTER THE CREATION OF A GOVERNMENTAL
AUTHORITY?

A- HERE WE GET INTO THE PROBLEM OF THE CHICKEN AND THE
EGG.... THE FUNDAMENTAL THING IS RECOGNITION OF THE
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S CAUSE THROUGH ITS LEGAL
REPRESENTATIVES, I.E., THE PLO. UNQUOTE.
GODLEY

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